

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

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JAMES R. WASHINGTON,

Plaintiff,

v.

LAURA SUKOWATY, et al.

Defendants.

ORDER

Case No. 23-cv-134-wmc

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Plaintiff James R. Washington has filed a proposed civil complaint, but has neither paid the filing fee nor requested leave to proceed without prepayment. For this case to proceed, plaintiff must pay the \$402 filing fee<sup>1</sup> or submit a properly supported motion for leave to proceed without prepayment of the filing fee no later than March 22, 2023.

A motion for leave to proceed without prepayment of the filing fee must be accompanied by a certified copy of plaintiff's inmate trust fund account statement (or institutional equivalent) for the six-month period immediately preceding the date of the complaint. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(2). If I find that plaintiff is indigent, I will calculate an initial partial payment amount that must be paid before the court can screen the merits of the complaint under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2). Thereafter, plaintiff will be required to pay the balance of the filing fee in installments.

With the complaint, plaintiff also filed a motion to use release account funds to pay the entire fee for filing this case. (Dkt. #4). However, with the exception of initial partial payments, federal courts lack the authority to tell state officials whether and to what extent a prisoner should be able to withdraw money from a release account. Plaintiff cannot use the

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<sup>1</sup> Effective December 1, 2020, the total fee for filing a civil action is \$402 (the \$350 statutory fee plus the \$52 miscellaneous administrative fee).

release account funds to pay the entire balance of the \$402.00 filing fee, and so plaintiff's motion will be denied.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that,

1. Plaintiff James R. Washington may have until March 22, 2023 to submit the \$402 filing fee or a motion for leave to proceed without prepayment and a trust fund account statement for the period beginning approximately August 27, 2022 and ending approximately February 27, 2023. If, by March 22, 2023, plaintiff fails to respond to this order, I will assume that plaintiff wishes to withdraw this action voluntarily. In that event, the case will be closed without prejudice to plaintiff filing the case at a later date.

2. Plaintiff's motion for use of release account funds to pay the entire filing fee in this case (Dkt. #4) is DENIED.

Entered this 28<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2023.

BY THE COURT:

/s/  
STEPHEN L. CROCKER  
Magistrate Judge

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
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**PRISONER REQUEST TO PROCEED IN DISTRICT COURT  
WITHOUT PREPAYING THE FULL FILING FEE**

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Answer the following questions to the best of your ability.

**Note:** If you do not tell the truth, the court may dismiss your lawsuit.

**I. Personal Information**

1) Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

(a) State the place of your incarceration and provide your prisoner identification number:

\_\_\_\_\_ (place) \_\_\_\_\_ (number)

(b) Are you employed at the institution? ☐ Yes ☐ No

(c) Do you receive any payment from the institution? ☐ Yes ☐ No

**Attach a printout of your prison trust account statement showing transactions for the six-month period immediately preceding the filing of this request and showing the current balance of your account.**

2) Do you have any dependents that you are responsible for supporting?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If "yes," list them below.

<u>Name or initials (for minor children only)</u>	<u>Relationship to You</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Amount of Support Provided per Month</u>
_____	_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	_____	\$ _____

**II. Property or Assets:** - If you are married, your answers must *include your spouse's property*.

1 ) Do you own a car?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If "yes," list the car(s) below:

<u>Make and Model</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Approximate Current Value</u>
_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____

2) Do you own your home(s)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If "Yes," state the approximate value(s). \$ \_\_\_\_\_

What is the amount of equity (assessed value of residence minus outstanding mortgage balance) in the home(s)? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

3) Do you have any cash or checking, savings, or other similar accounts?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If "Yes," state the total of such sums. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

4) Do you own any other property of value, such as real estate, stocks, bonds, trusts, or individual retirement accounts (e.g., IRA, 401 k), artwork, or jewelry?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If "Yes," describe the property and the approximate value(s).

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**III. Litigation History**

For each federal lawsuit that you recall having filed, list as much of the following information that you remember about each case: The name of the case (that is, the plaintiffs and the defendants), the case number or year of filing, and the federal district in which you filed the case. Use more paper if needed.

<b>Case Name (Plaintiffs and defendants)</b>	<b>Case number (or year of filing)</b>	<b>Federal district</b>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**IV. Other Circumstances** - Describe any other financial circumstance(s) that you would like the court to consider when reviewing this petition.

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I, \_\_\_\_\_, declare that I am the plaintiff bringing this complaint. I declare that I am unable to prepay the full filing fee and that I am entitled to the relief sought in the complaint.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature - Signed Under Penalty of Perjury**